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Ken Burton 202-208-5634

CANDIDATES FOR ADDITION TO ENDANGERED LIST ARE PUBLISHED BY FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

A revised Candidate Notice of Review naming 207 species that may warrant protection under the Endangered Species Act was published today by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The new list adds 57 species that were not on the list last year, most of which are Hawaiian plants.

The Notice also identifies 99 domestic animal and plant species that are proposed for addition to the list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants.

The Candidate Notice of Review is published primarily to solicit new information on the status of candidate species and threats. Inclusion on the list of candidates does not guarantee that a species will be automatically added to the official list of threatened and endangered wildlife and plants. The Notice was last updated in February 1996.

The Service relies on a variety of sources to determine whether a species warrants listing under the Act, including contributions from private, university, and government scientists and other citizens as well as local, state, and Federal land management and planning agencies.

The Notice also provides an advance look at which species the Service is considering proposing for protection, encourages conservation, and helps avoid conflicts by promoting alternative planning and development strategies that accommodate the needs of candidate species.

Candidate species are those for which the Service has sufficient information to propose that they be added to the list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants. The Service processes listing actions according to its priority guidance, which grants the highest priority to species in the greatest need of protection. The complete Notice and list of candidates and proposed species are published in today's <u>Federal Register</u>.

-FWS-

The new candidate list should be available shortly by accessing http://indigo.lib.lsu.edu/gpo on the internet and then scrolling to "Federal Register."